

## **April 11, 2011 - Special Town Council Meeting**

**At a Special Meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Middletown, RI held at the Middletown Town Hall on Monday, April 11, 2011 at 6:00 P.M.**

**Council President Arthur S. Weber, Jr., Presiding**

**Vice President Bruce J. Long**

**Councillor Richard Cambra**

**Councillor Edward J. Silveira, Jr.**

**Councillor Christopher T. Semonelli**

**Councillor Antone C. Viveiros**

**Councillor Barbara A. VonVillas, Members Present**

**POSTED – April 8, 2011**

**Wendy J.W. Marshall, Town Clerk**

**Town of Middletown**

**Town Hall – 350 East Main Road**

**Middletown, Rhode Island 02842**

**Dear Mrs. Marshall:**

**Pursuant to the provisions of Article II, Section 203 of the Town Charter and in accordance with Sections 42-46-2., 42-46-4, 42-46-5. and 42-46-6., RIGL, I hereby call a Special Meeting of the Town Council to formally consider, discuss and act upon the following items of business:**

## **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG**

**1. Executive Session - Pursuant to provisions of RIGL, Sections 42-46-2., 42-46-4., and 42-46-5. (a) (2) Collective Bargaining ( Fire Union).**

**2. (Continued from the Regular Meeting, April 4, 2011)**

**An Ordinance of the Town of Middletown (Second Reading)**

**An Ordinance in Amendment to the Town Code of the Town of Middletown, Title III, Administrator, Chapter 37 Civil Service, Subsection Organization of the Fire Department.**

**3. (Continued from the Regular Meeting, April 4, 2011)**

**(Continued from the Regular Meeting, March 21, 2011)**

**Memorandum of Town Administrator, re: Revisions to Middletown Fire Department Rules and Regulations.**

**4. (Continued from the Regular Meeting, April 4, 2011)**

**(Continued from the Regular Meeting, March 21, 2011)**

**Approval of Middletown Fire Department Rules and Regulations.**

**5. Review of FY 2011–2012 Proposed Department Budgets – General Fund Revenues, Town Administrator, Police Department, Public Works Department, Fire Department, Town Solicitor, Probate Court and Municipal Court, including related grants and CIP submissions.**

**Said meeting will be held on Monday, April 11, 2011, at 6:00 P.M. at the Middletown Town Hall, 350 East Main Road, Middletown, Rhode Island 02842.**

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**Arthur S. Weber, Jr., President**

**Middletown Town Council**

**cc:**

**Town Council**

**Public Library**

**Finance Director**

**Town Administrator**

**Town Solicitor**

**Police Chief**

**Human Resource Manager**

**Public Works Director**

**Fire Chief**

**This meeting location is accessible to the handicapped. Individuals requiring interpreter services for the hearing-impaired should notify the Town Clerk's Office at 847-0009 not less than 48 hours before the meeting.**

**On motion of Councillor Silveira, duly seconded, it was voted unanimously to receive said communication.**

**Also present were Town Administrator Shawn Brown, Town Solicitor Michael W. Miller, Finance Director Lynne Dible, Deputy Finance Director Marc Tanguay and Accounting Manager Deborah Barrett.**

**1. Executive Session - Pursuant to provisions of RIGL, Sections 42-46-2., 42-46-4., and 42-46-5. (a) (2) Collective Bargaining ( Fire Union).**

**On motion of Vice President Long, duly seconded, it was voted unanimously to recess this meeting at 6:01 P.M. to meet in executive session pursuant to docket item entered above.**

**On motion of Vice President Long, duly seconded, it was voted unanimously to reconvene this meeting in open session at 6:15 P.M.**

**On motion of Vice President Long, duly seconded, it was voted unanimously to ratify and approve the Firefighters contract.**

**On motion of Vice President Long, duly seconded, it was voted**

**unanimously to seal the minutes of the executive session pursuant to Section 42-46-7. RIGL.**

**Town Administrator Shawn Brown thanked the Town Council for ratifying the Firefighters contract and thanked the Fire Union representatives for the willingness to work with the Town on a resolution to resolve the union contract. Mr. Brown requested to withdraw items #2, #3 and #4 from the agenda.**

**On motion of Vice President Long, duly seconded, it was voted unanimously to withdraw items #2, #3 and #4 from the agenda, as requested by the Town Administrator.**

## **2. (Continued from the Regular Meeting, April 4, 2011)**

### **An Ordinance of the Town of Middletown (Second Reading)**

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## **Police Department Budget**

**Town Administrator Shawn Brown explained that negotiations are in process with the Police Union. The budget is based on the current Union contract agreement.**

**Police Chief Anthony Pesare and Administrative Assistant Lisa Sisson were present to answer Council questions regarding the proposed Police budget.**

**Police Chief Pesare addressed the Council noting that there are 26,000 calls for service each year, which include School and Senior Center visits and car seat installations.**

**Discussion centered around the purchase of new motorcycles, police cars, implementations made for online services and new hires.**

## **Fire Budget**

**Fire Chief Ronald Doire and Administrative Assistant Susan Lentz were present to answer Council questions regarding the proposed Fire Department budget.**

**Fire Chief Ronald Doire addressed the Council explaining that the department is currently eight firefighters short and will be hiring four soon. There are two new rescue wagons arriving in June. Chief Doire noted that the call volume has increased by three percent.**

**Town Administrator Shawn Brown noted that the current contract is in effect this budget year.**

**Discussion centered around replacement of a ladder truck, replacement of a fire pumper truck, new fire alarm system, station**

**renovation project, expansion of the waterlines and the balance of the PPV Revenue fund.**

## **Public Works**

**Town Administrator Shawn Brown noted that there have been various improvements within the Public Works Department. Public Works Director Tom O'Loughlin and Town Engineer Warren Hall have implemented indexes for infrastructure issues. Mr. Brown explained that there is better project management within the department. The department staffing has been reduced by two classified and one non-classified positions.**

**Public Works Director Tom O'Loughlin and Town Engineer Warren Hall were present to answer Council questions regarding the proposed Public Works budget.**

**Public Works Director Tom O'Loughlin addressed the Council noting**

**there has been a major focus to increase department efficiency. There is new software to monitor the Town's infrastructure systems.**

**Town Administrator Shawn Brown reviewed the Public Works CIP budget entered here:**

**Mr. Brown noted that the Fire, Police and Public Works Departments have outstanding safety records for their employees.**

**Senior Account Deborah Barrett reviewed the increases in gas, diesel, and electricity expenses shown in the proposed budget.**

## **General Fund Revenues**

**Finance Director Lynne Dible reviewed the revenues line items entered here:**

**Ms. Dible noted that the local revenues are flat, the proposal is a 3% increase in the tax rate and investment earnings are down.**

### **Town Administrator Budget**

**Town Administrator Shawn Brown explained that the proposed budget includes himself and Administrative Assistant. The proposal includes an \$8,000. increase in the professional development line to attend the Harvard Business School in lieu of accounting training, all other line items are level funded.**

### **Town Solicitor Budget**

**Finance Director Lynne Dible explained the only increase included is in the stipends for the Planning Board.**

**Town Administrator Shawn Brown noted that as saving will be recognized within the agreement contracts.**

### **Probate Court**

**Town Administrator Shawn Brown explained that the Probate Court volume has increased, noting the expense has not changed.**

### **Municipal Court**

**Town Clerk Wendy J.W. Marshall explained that the increases within the budget are in the stipend line item and an expense for a shuttle bus to be utilized only during inclement weather, if the sidewalks have not been cleared.**

**Town Administrator Shawn Brown noted a possibility that the Town of Portsmouth would utilize the Municipal Court for zoning cases only.**

**On motion of Councillor Cambra, duly seconded, it was voted unanimously to adjourn this meeting at 8:33 P.M.**

**Wendy J.W. Marshall, CMC**

**Council Clerk**

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